



## Halfway Happy by 39CluesStrangerThingsFan-Star

**Category:** Stranger Things, 2016

**Language:** English

**Characters:** Eleven/Jane H., Joyce B., Max M., Mike W.

**Pairings:** Eleven/Jane H./Mike W.

**Status:** In-Progress

**Published:** 2019-08-10 23:06:30

**Updated:** 2019-11-25 21:04:00

**Packaged:** 2019-12-12 15:03:18

**Rating:** M

**Chapters:** 7

**Words:** 6,664

**Publisher:** [www.fanfiction.net](http://www.fanfiction.net)

**Summary:** "Mike," she mouthed. Unable to get any sound out. She missed him, so much. /\ Takes place after Season 3, assuming everything is back to normal (even though the trailer for Season 4 shows otherwise) and nothing bad is going to happen. Lots of Mileven (and some Lumax) fluff. /Chapter 7 out\\

## 1. Halfway Happy

El lay in bed, unable to sleep. She missed Hopper. She missed Mike.

"Mike," she mouthed, unable to get any sound out.

She missed him, so much.

*"Why do you lie?"*

*"I dump your ass."*

*"I love you too."*

The past summer had been a whirlwind of events. Breaking up with Mike, defeating the Mind Flayer, losing Hopper, telling Mike she loved him. And moving away. Away from the pain.

Yet, she couldnt escape it. A piece of her was still there. With Mike.

El broke down crying. She tried to be quiet, but Joyce heard her.

"Oh honey." Joyce wrapped her arm around El, trying to comfort her.

"Mike," El whispered.

"We're visiting for thanksgiving, remember?"

El nodded. "Yes, you promised."

"I did. We're going to Hawkins for thanksgiving and Mike's coming here for Christmas. You'll see him soon."

"Soon." El breathed. She looked at Joyce, hurt showing in her eyes. "I miss, Hopper."

"So do I. So do I."

---

El slept through the rest of the night peacefully. "Promise," she remembered.

Slowly, she made her way downstairs where everyone else was eating breakfast.

"Hey El, what do you want for breakfast?" Jonathan asked, knowing the answer.

"Eggs," replied a sleepy El.

"Coming right up."

El sat down next to Will, and poured a glass of orange juice for herself. She glanced around the kitchen, wondering why she had to move with them.

The phone rang, just then.

"El, for you," Joyce said, holding out the handset.

"Mike?" El asked.

"No. Me, Max." The voice on the other end giggled.

"Hi Max."

"You're coming to Hawkins for thanksgiving, right? At Mike's?"

"Yes, promise."

"So, I'll see you in two weeks?"

"Two weeks?" El asked, shocked.

"Yeah. Thanksgiving is only in two weeks."

"Wow, two weeks."

"El, I gotta go. I'll see you in two weeks. Bye."

"Bye Max." El set the handset back on the hook. "Two weeks," she smiled. "Halfway happy."

---

**Well... This is my first stranger things fic. I started watching the**

shkw after the third season came out. Watched one season in 4 days, then went to summer camp and watch the other two seasons in a week.

Hopefully you enjoyed the start of this fic. Basically, El misses Mike a lot and cant sleep because of that and other things.

-Star

## 2. You're a Good Brother, Will

A/N: I don't own Stranger Things. (And i find disclaimers are really lame since we are on a fanfiction site. So if i dont have a disclaimer on some future chapters, i most likely forgot.)

Birdsnbogwazee: Thank you for reviewing! It means a lot that you already like it. Hopefully you will continue to enjoy it!

Also, I've been reading a lot of fanfics (cant get enough Stranger Things), and i have noticed that a lot of the ideas ive had, have been used. So, I am going to try my best to do a different variant of the ideas so im not copying. But if you see a familiar plot line or you used it in yours, this is why.

Enjoy!

---

"Mike," El exclaimed into the phone. "Two weeks until thanksgiving!"

"Someone's excited for turkey day," Mike smiled on the other end.

"Turkey day?" El asked, puzzled.

"Some people call thanksgiving turkey day. Cause you eat turkey, and then eat turkey for another week."

"Oh. Can I call it, Seeing Mike day?" El questioned. Will walked by right then, opened his mouth and stuck his finger in, pretending to gag.

"Sure. I'll call it, Seeing El day. Ok?"

"Ok," El grinned. "I miss you."

"I miss you, too. It's too quiet here. We dont have our ten hour campaigns without Will, and nothing crazy has happened without you." Mike sighed.

"We will be back for thanksgiving. And you will be here for Christmas. Mrs. By- Joyce, said you could stay until New Years."

"I'll check with my mom. I'd love to stay though. Maybe you could come back here next summer," Mike suggested.

"Maybe." El gave a small smile. "Will wants to say hi. I love you."

"Ok, bye El. I- uh, I love you too." Mike hesitated to say it. He knew his feelings but didn't want to see too straightforward.

"Hey Mike," Will's voice came through. "How Hawkins?"

"Hey, Hawkins is still here. How's life in Ohio?"

"Boring. El and Jonathan are my only friends and even then they just want to call you and Nancy all day. But it's fine. Having El is kinda like having a sister. Mom said not to push anything with her. If she wants to regard us as her family she can, but she's not our sister unless she wants to be." Will sighed.

"Oh, you guys are nice to her, right?"

"Mike, we wouldn't hurt your girlfriend. Mom is letting her have her own room. Luckily this house has four rooms. I love Jonathan and all but I don't need to hear him calling for Nancy in his sleep." Will joked.

"Ewww, he does that?" Mike asked, disgusted. "Nancy does the same thing."

"Yeah, we stayed in a hotel the first night since we couldn't move in yet. I had to share the room with him. I could barely fall asleep, it was 'Nancy, Nancy, Nancy.'" Will started laughing.

"Umm fun? I'm sorry. Nancy misses Jonathan too. My mom is going to have a fit if they try to share the same bed over Thanksgiving. She says El shares with Nancy, you share with me, and Jonathan gets the basement." Mike frowned a little.

"I'm sure you wish you could be with El," Will teased his best friend.

"No, I just want to make sure she doesn't have PTSD being back in Hawkins. That's all." Mike tried to cover for himself.

"Yeah, right." Will said, sarcastically. "I promised El I would help her with her school. I should go. Ill see you in two weeks."

"Two weeks." Mike agreed. "Bye."

---

El was struggled with her vocabulary. Math came easy to her, as did science. History and language arts were a different story.

"I just don't get it." El complained. "Why have lots of words that mean the same thing?"

"For variety. You dont want to say the same thing over and over. And they're called synonyms." Will tried to explain.

"Well synonyms are stupid." El shouted.

"Ok ok ok. Let's move on for now. Synonyms can wait."

"I'll never be ready for school will I? I'm dumb! I can't do this!" El yelled, storming to her room.

"You're not dumb!" Will called after her.

El flopped onto her bed, sobbing. "I'm dumb," she muttered to herself. "I'm stupid. I'm lame. I'm... I'm... I'm out of synonyms."

El grabbed the photo of her and Mike at the Snow Ball from her desk. Jonathan had snapped it right before they kissed. "Mike," she whispered. She wanted to feel his embrace, to be with him in Hawkins. Even with him here would be better than nothing. "Mike," she cried, burying her face in her pillow.

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"El, honey," Joyce said, gently. "El, it's dinner time. Wake up."

"I feel asleep?" El asked, groggily. She sat up, rubbing her eyes and stretching.

"Yeah, you crashed pretty hard after getting mad with synonyms."

"Oh," El blushed, embarrassed about her outrage.



"Come on. Let's go eat dinner." Joyce took El by the shoulders and led her to the dining room.

"Will," El said, softly, barely audible. "I'm sorry for getting angry with you. Synonyms are useful."

"It's ok El. I didn't get them the first time either." Will gave her a hug.

"You're a great brother Will. You too, Jonathan." El smiled.

"El, are you really happy here?" Will asked.

El nodded. "Halfway happy."

---

**Sorry for the short chapters. I'm kinda going with the flow on this story. Yes, I have plans, just not a whole bunch. I have the main points, but not inbetween.**

**Hopefully you enjoyed... please leave a review! It would mean a lot to me.**

**Thanks**

**-Star**

### 3. Promise? Promise

A/N: So, I don't really have a schedule for updating, it's more of a I write when I have the time. Sadly, with school starting in less than two weeks, I won't have much time to write this.

Guest: Whoops. I didn't notice I had set the pairing to Max and El. I fixed it, but I'm guessing it happened since I had both Max and Mike as characters and I didn't pay close enough attention. Thanks for catching that!

I (still ;P) don't own Stranger Things.

Enjoy!

---

"She's finally opening up and is comfortable with us," Jonathan exclaimed to Nancy over the phone a few days later. "She said that Will and I are good brothers."

"That's great. Mike will be thrilled to hear that," Nancy smiled. "So, thanksgiving. Did Will tell you the plan? I know Mike told him."

"The sleeping arrangements? Or the timeframe?" Jonathan asked.

"Both, really. You are driving here, after all," Nancy let out a small giggle.

"I didn't really hear either. Just bits and pieces."

"Ok, so we already talked to your mom. You three are taking Monday thru Wednesday off of school. You'll drive in on Sunday and stay thru lunch the next Sunday." Nancy explained.

"Sounds good. A week with the Wheelers," Jonathan mused. "Sleeping arrangements?"

"Well, you aren't going to be very happy with these," Nancy said, clenching her teeth. "Will is sleeping in Mike's room, El is sleeping in my room, and you get the basement."

"Ok..." Jonathan sighed.

"But," Nancy lowered her voice. "I know Mike is planning on trying to convince mom and dad that him and El should share a bed. I think if he does convince them, even if he doesn't, I can convince mom and dad to let you share with me."

"I see. But do you actually think they'll let us. Or let Mike and El?"

"No, but we have a better chance than them since we're older." Nancy pointed out, matter of factly.

"That's true, but do you think that they'd let us? Regardless of age."

"No."

"Ok. Well, I think we'll have a better shot at Christmas. My mom is more laid back with things like that, I think," Jonathan suggested.

"She'd let Mike and El share a bed too?" Nancy questioned.

"El's already bugging her."

"Oh," Nancy laughed. "Jonathan, mom's calling me for dinner. I'll talk to you soon, ok? I'll see you soon too. A week!"

"Alright... Enjoy dinner. I love you," Jonathan set the phone on the hook, hanging up.

---

*12:37am*

"MIKE," El screamed, panicked from her nightmare.

She clutched her pillow, sobbing into it. She had lost him. The Mind Flayer had gotten him and she couldn't do anything. "Mike," El cried. "Mike."

Joyce came running in. "El, what's wrong?"

"I... I... I lost him." El whispered, not wanting it to be true. "The Mind Flayer got Mike. I couldn't save him."

Joyce wrapped her arm around El. "Mike's fine. We can call him in the morning before school. He's alright."

El continued to sob, gripping her pillow, hard. She allowed Joyce to hold her and try to comfort her. El kept shaking. "He... He... He was gone."

"He's fine," Joyce whispered, stroking El's hair. "Don't worry. He's ok."

El nodded, tears still streaming down her face. She released the pillow, setting her head on it. Joyce laid next to her until she fell asleep.

---

El punched the numbers into the dial. And waited for someone to pick up.

"Mike," she cried when she finally got through to him.

"El, what's wrong?" Mike asked, worried for his girlfriend.

"I had a nightmare last night." El bit her lip. "About you. You, were gone." A single tear fell down El's cheek.

"You should've used your SuperCom. You could've called me. But I'm here. I'm fine, El."

"I know. But I was so worried. I thought... I thought I had lost you." El whispered.

"You didn't. I'm here. You won't lose me." Mike told her, lovingly.

"Promise?" El asked, softly.

"Promise." Mike guaranteed. "I have to go to school now. I.. I love you. Ok, El?"

"I love you too, Mike." El hung up, feeling relieved.

"Feel better?" Joyce asked, placing some Eggos on her plate.

"Halfway happy," El nodded in reply.

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Again, I apologize for the short chapter. The next chapter will be the thanksgiving chapter. There might be two thanksgiving chapters, depends on the time I have and what I feel is neccessary.

Please leave a review if you can. It would mean a lot to me and show me that you've enjoyed my story so far.

Thanks again!

-Star

## 4. At the Wheelers Day 1

**Im just gonna go ahead and do Thanksgiving! I have some interesting chapter ideas coming up. Hopefully they play out ok.**

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El could barely contain her excitement as she saw the sign for Hawkins. "We're back," she squealed. "I get to see Mike and Max."

"Don't get too excited about seeing Mike," Jonathan warned. "You know how the sleeping arrangements are going to work. Mrs. Wheeler doesn't want anything happening under her roof."

"Anything happening?" El gave Jonathan a confused look.

"It's nothing, El," Will glared at Jonathan.

They pulled into the Wheeler's driveway just then, El's question being forgotten.

El unbuckled her seatbelt and jumped out of the car the moment they parked. Mike was waiting on the porch for them, and she ran to him, getting enveloped in a hug.

"I missed you so much," Mike whispered, as he held her tightly.

"I've missed you too," El smiled at him, pulling him tighter.

When they finally released each other, they saw Jonathan and Will looking at the ground. "Oh sorry," Mike said, sheepishly. "I guess we were blocking the door."

Mike pulled Will into a hug, not quite as long as the one he and El had just shared.

"It's so great to have you back. Dustin, Lucas, and I have been working on a campaign that we want to play. We tried to teach Max but she just doesn't want to play. She's gonna steal El for a day so we can play D&D. Just like old times."

"That would be fun," Will agreed.

"Alright, can we take our stuff inside Mike, or are we confined to the car?" Jonathan asked.

"Yeah, yeah. Come one in," Mike opened the door. "Nancy is at the store getting some stuff for the week. She should be back any minute though. And I'm sure you've heard about the sleeping arrangements?"

"El is sleeping in Nancy's room, Will is sleeping in yours and I get the basement." Jonathan said.

"Unless you and Will want to share my room. I'd be happy to sleep in the basement. I know the couch down there is kinda lumpy." Mike offered.

"Let's see how the first night goes. Maybe I'll trade." Jonathan declined, knowing what Mike was up to.

They brought their stuff inside and set it in the proper rooms. Mrs. Wheeler was at the stove making dinner.

"Hi boys, El. It's nice to see you again. Don't worry I'm not making turkey for dinner, we'll save that for Thursday."

"Haha mom," Mike groaned. "The rest of the party is going to be here soon, can you send them to the basement?"

"Sure hon."

Mike, Will, and El headed down to the basement. Jonathan stayed upstairs to help in the kitchen and wait for Nancy.

"I can't wait to see everyone again," El sighed, with a yawn.

"El, are you tired?" Mike asked.

"A little."

"Here," Mike sat down on the couch, patting the spot next to him. "You can rest while Will and I catch up."

El sat down and snuggled her body up next to Mike's, closing her eyes.

"How's school going?"

"It's good. I've been helping El with her work a lot. English isn't easy for her."

"She told me about her outburst due to synonyms," Mike laughed a bit before El hit him, playfully.

"I guess high school's good though. I wish I was here in Hawkins though. We had been planning on going to high school together since second grade."

"Yeah, Troy has gotten worse since you've left. He's always like, 'there goes Toothless, Midnight, and Frogface. Hey, Frogface, where's your fairy Zombie Boy?' It pisses me off."

"Asides from Troy, is high school nice here?" Will asked.

"So so. I was really looking forward to going to high school with you and El." Mike sighed, putting his arm over a sleeping El.

The barreling of footsteps upstairs told them that everyone else had arrived.

"WILL!" Dustin yelled from the top of stairs, somehow not waking El, before he ran down them and embraced Will in a hug.

"Dude," Max exclaimed, slightly annoyed. "El's sleeping here."

"Oh, sorry," Dustin lowered his voice to a barely audible whisper.

Lucas and Max gave Will hugs before sitting down to hear about high school in Ohio.

When El woke up, she was surrounded by her friends. She sat up and gave Max a hug.

"Did you hear that I'm stealing you for a day while you're here? Probably Wednesday since we don't have school then. We can do stuff without stupid boys."

"HEY!" Mike and Lucas yelled, slightly offended.



Max rolled her eyes, excited to be with El again.

"Dinner!" Nancy called down the stairs.

Everyone got up to go eat, leaving El and Mike downstairs.

"Mike?"

"Yes, El?"

"What are the chances I can sleep next to you like that every night?" El asked, innocently.

"Very slim, but I will check," Mike squeezed her shoulders, hugging her from behind.

"Thank you."

"Are you happy to be here El?" Mike asked her.

"Yes, very happy."

---

**Well, there's the next chapter. I will probably draw out the Thanksgiving week for a while. I have something big (-ish) planned when Max and El hang out so.**

**Also, I don't know how D&D really works (other than what's on the show) so if it's not accurate when I get to that part, sorry.**

**-Star**

## 5. Boys being Boys

Ok, the next few chapters are going to be a little bit weird? I'm not sure. With the kids (except El, Will, and Jonathan) being at school, they really have nothing to do. I do have a few major things that I'm planning on having within the next 2 or 3 chapters.

Guest: RobinLudgate: My favorite season is season 3... with the exception of Hopper's death. I'm really glad you're enjoying this so far. It actually means a lot to me that you think the characters are just like they are in the show. I think El is probably the hardest to write that way.

### Without further ado, Chapter 5

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El managed to sleep through the night without having a nightmare. She awoke to Nancy's alarm clock blaring, right as Nancy walked back in the room after her shower.

"Oh, El, I'm so sorry." Nancy cried, shutting it off. "I completely forgot I had it set."

"It's fine," El yawned, groggily.

"You can sleep in if you want. Or you can get up and have breakfast with us."

"Eggs?" El asked, still in a sleepy daze.

"Most likely. Mike had me get a bunch while I was at the store." Nancy smiled, before heading downstairs, leaving the door open.

El pulled off the covers and stepped out of bed. She stretched, yawning, and walked out the open door, almost running into Mike, who was closing his bedroom door behind him.

"I didn't realize my old shirt would look so cute on you." Mike said, smirking.

El blushed, realizing she had worn the old shirt she had taken from him to bed, with short shorts underneath.

"Will's still sleeping, but let me guess. You want Eggos?"

El nodded, shyly.

"Let's get you some Eggos then." Mike grabbed her hand and led her downstairs.

They sat down at the kitchen table, El helping herself to a plate of Eggos, complete with lots of maple syrup. She tried to hide the disappointment of not having whipped cream, or any other toppings she used to put on her triple decker Eggo extravaganzas with Hopper.

"Good morning, El." Mrs. Wheeler greeted her. "Mike and Nancy have school this morning. I'm gonna let your brothers sleep as long as they need to. Do you want to do some thanksgiving shopping with Holly and I?"

"Sure," El accepted the offer, with a small smile.

"Mom, don't forget that El, Will, and Jonathan are coming to school with us tomorrow." Nancy reminded Mrs. Wheeler.

"That's right. We got special permission from the school since Jonathan used to attend, and you and Will would've been attending. Nancy will pick up your schedules today. You'll be in classes with your friends. Doesn't that sound fun?"

El nodded, looking towards Mike.

"I have to go." Nancy said, getting up from the table. "Mike. You need to finish that waffle or you'll be late."

"Ok ok." Mike shoved the waffle in his mouth, standing up. "El, I'll see you later ok? I promise."

"Promise," El nodded.

Mike walked to where she was sitting and kissed the top of her head, before walking out of the house.

---

"So El, did you enjoy living in Hawkins? Mike told me that Hopper adopted you last winter, and that you guys were close to the Byers. Is that why you live with them?"

"Yes. I really like Hawkins. Joyce was really close to my dad, and offered to take me in." El managed to fake a smile, even though it hurt.

"How did you and Mike meet?" Mrs. Wheeler asked, not knowing anything about the true story.

"Uh," El stuttered, taken off guard by the question. "I was over at the Byers one day when Mike was there. My dad really wanted me to meet people my age."

"Well that's good. I hope Mike's been nice to you. I see that you two have a relationship."

"Oh. Yeah." El murmured, blushing.

"It's so nice to see Mike treating a girl with love. Him and Nancy are bickering all the time, and he's barely friendly with Max. Have you met Max?"

"She's my best friend," El admitted. "Other than Mike."

"That's great. I know the boys are wanting a sleepover tomorrow night with Will being back. Do you want to go to Max's?"

"Sure." El smiled, genuinely for the first time while she was out shopping. "I'd love to spend time with her."

El hopped out of the car and grabbed a bag of groceries, taking it inside to the kitchen counter.

---

The boys came over after school.

"Where's Max?" El asked.

"She had stuff to do at home." Lucas explained. "Her parents are still

shaken up over Billy's death. And it's been almost five months."

"Oh." El looked at her feet, realizing she was partly to blame for Billy's death.

Mike put his arm around her. "You can have fun with us, right?"

El nodded and sat down on the couch. Observing, like she did when she first met them.

"Will, do you mind sleeping in the basement with your brother tonight?" Mike asked, subtly.

"I guess not, why?"

"Why do you think?" Dustin exclaimed. "He obviously wants to share the bed with El. And have se-"

"DUSTIN!" Mike yelled. "That is so not it. It's just weird sharing my room. We always have our sleepovers in the basement."

"Yeah yeah." Will said, shaking his head. "I'll sleep down here."

El looked at the four of them, a quizzical look on her face.

"Mike," she said, softly.

"Yeah?" Mike turned, looking at her.

"What was Dustin about to say? Before you cut him off." El asked, innocently.

"Nothing. He was making jokes. He makes those almost as often as he farts." Mike glared at Dustin, getting back at him.

"Oh ok." El said with a small giggle.

"I hope you guys haven't been torturing El too much." Max called, as she came down the basement stairs. "El, the boys are having a sleepover here tomorrow night. Want to have a sleepover at my place?"

"Yes." El said a little too eagerly.

"Ouch." Mike joked.

"Get over yourself Wheeler. She doesn't need you 24/7." Max rolled her eyes.

"Mike just wants to have sex with her." Dustin whispered to Lucas. Lucas gave Mike a goofy grin.

"Look, I don't know what's happening down here, but I'm leaving. El, wanna go to the arcade?" Max asked, as she headed back up the basement stairs.

"Sure," El called after her, taking a step up. "Bye," she waved to the boys.

They waved back to her, as she was taking the stairs slowly.

"Geez, Wheeler." Lucas said. "You're gonna let Max take her away so easily?"

"Max is her friend." Mike defended himself.

"So, we're on to you." Dustin said.

"On to what?" Mike tried to play dumb.

"We know you want to have sex with her. Don't be dumb." Lucas said, backing Dustin up.

"EW! You know you guys are talking about my sister." Will exclaimed.

"Yeah. Let's change the topic." Mike agreed.

"Whatever." Lucas said, the basement door closing as he said it.

Mike buried his face in his hands. "She probably heard all of that. And is going to ask Max about it. Remember the last time she talked to Max about something."

"Poor Wheeler can't handle El having friends." Dustin teased.

"Shut up!" Mike threw a pillow at him.

---

Well. Hopefully you liked this chapter. I have most of the sleepover planned out. You can probably guess what it may include.

Also, with that being said, I may be changing the rating to M. I'm not planning on having anything truly M worthy, yet. But I might during the Christmas chapters. SO just a warning.

If you enjoyed the chapter, a review is always nice.

- Star

## 6. We Didn't Do Anything

Since I never went to a true high school, I am going to be skipping the majority of El, Will, and Jonathan going to the school for the day. This chapter will have what I do include of that, however not the sleepover just yet.

**Guest: Me:** This is my first *Stranger Things* fic, but it's probably my favorite to write. Just allowing people to see my take on what happens after Season 3. However, *What Comes After* by OdoMango is probably my favorite to read right now, but I love them all.

**Guest: Emma:** Yes, sleepover! Sadly that's not this chapter (at least not the majority of it).

**Disclaimer - I don't own *Stranger Things* or it's characters.**

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El followed Max to the kitchen to tell Mrs. Wheeler where they were going.

"Have fun. Just be back for dinner. Max, you're welcome to stay for dinner if you'd like. I think Dustin and Lucas are too."

"Thanks Mrs. Wheeler!" Max took a step out the door, El following her.

Max hoped on her bike, forgetting that El didn't have one. El, however, wasn't phased. She hoped on the pegs, just like she had done with Mike, 2 years prior.

Max biked the two of them to the arcade. El hopped off the bike, waiting for Max before going inside to her favorite game.

Over the summer, before their world got crazy, Mike had taken El to the arcade whenever Hopper allowed it. Pac Man instantly became El's favorite, since it was the easiest. Plus it was right by Dig Dug and Galaga, Max and Mike's favorites.

Luckily, Joyce had given the kids some money for their trip, knowing



they'd go to the arcade at least once, she included a few dollars in quarters for the younger two.

El and Max stayed at the arcade up until they had just enough time to bike back to the Wheelers.

The boys were just coming up the stairs as Max and El walked through the door.

Mike walked over to El and gave her a hug, causing Max to roll her eyes.

"Did you have fun?" Mike asked her, still keeping his arm around her shoulders. El nodded, shyly.

"Dinner!" Mrs. Wheeler called from the kitchen. The kids piled into the dinning room, squeezing chairs around the table, somehow managing to fit 11 chairs around the table.

---

After dinner, Max, Lucas, and Dustin left.

El, Will, and Mike went downstairs to watch a movie before bed. They let El choose. Much to Mike and Will's dismay, El chose *The Neverending Story*.

When the movie ended, Will went to get ready for bed, after being 'forcefully' banished to the basement with Jonathan.

Mike leaned over to El with this opportunity. "Once Nancy's asleep, come into my room. You can sleep in my room with me. You'll just have to get up early to get back into Nancy's room."

El nodded, smiling.

They went upstairs, after bidding Will and Jonathan goodnight.

El got ready for bed, and climbed into Nancy's bed. She lay awake, waiting as Nancy got ready for bed. Finally she heard the softening breath of the older girl.

El slowly climbed out of the bed, tiptoed out of the room and across

the hall to Mike's. She slowly creaked open the door and slipped in, shutting it behind her. El climbed up next to Mike, placing her head on his chest.

"Hey," he whispered to her, putting his arm around her, pulling her closer.

"Hi," El whispered with a smile, snuggling closer to Mike.

The two lay next to each other, slowly drifting off to sleep.

Mike woke with a start, hearing his dad's alarm very faintly, realizing El was still with him.

"El," he whispered, softly, trying to wake her up. "El, you need to get back into Nancy's bed before she wakes up."

El opened her eyes, smiling at Mike.

"El, you need to go," but it was too late. Nancy opened Mike's door, not surprised at what she saw.

"Mike!" Nancy whisper yelled at her brother. "I was so worried when I didn't see El. What is she doing in your room?"

"I...um...well...you see." Mike stuttered.

"Mike asked for me to sleep with him."

Nancy's eyes went wide.

"It's not like that. We didn't do anything, we just slept." Mike defended himself.

"Ok, but El needs to get out of here before mom and dad wake up."

El pulled herself out of the bed, following Nancy back to the other room to get ready for school.

---

El and Will rode with Mike to school, El on the pegs of Mike's bike, and Will riding Mike's old bike.

Both of them had butterflies in their stomachs. Will knew these people, but El didn't.

They parked the bikes in the bike cage and walked in. Mike grabbed El's hand sensing that she was nervous. "It's going to be ok," he whispered, gently.

El smiled, knowing that they had made arrangements for her to spend the entire day in Mike's classes, while Will had classes with Dustin and Lucas as well.

---

After school, Max stopped by the Wheeler's so El could get clothes.

"Bye Mike," El called down the stairs, before leaving with Max. She had grabbed some regular clothes from her suitcase, and managed to sneak another one of Mike's shirts while he was downstairs.

"Ready to have a girl's night?" Max asked, excited.

El nodded and smiled. "Too bad we can't go shopping."

"We can still have fun. Without boys." Max rolled her eyes. "You and Mike can be too much sometimes."

El giggled, thinking of how Max hated how Mike treated her, even if it was sweet.

"He just loves me." El sighed.

"Yeah, well it's gross." Max laughed at how El was completely innocent.

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Ok, so I'm gonna end that there. Hopefully I can get a few more chapters out soon. Especially since I have the Thanksgiving week planned out.

Though, with Thanksgiving being THIS WEEK in real life, I might write the sleepover chapter, and publish it tomorrow, and have a chapter out the next few days, and the Thanksgiving chapter out on Thanksgiving.

I hope you enjoyed this chapter, it was a little bit harder to write, but I think I was trying to include too much in one and not expanding upon certain things. I don't know.

Please leave a review if you feel like it, just sharing your thoughts.

- Star

## 7. Max, What's Sex

Hey there! It's finally time for the sleepover chapter! So...this is the chapter that I'm going to raise the rating to M, so if you don't want to read it anymore I understand. I will give a warning when the story does have true M stuff. Right now, it's just the content of the chapter and the swearing.

Disclaimer: I don't own Stranger Things or any of it's characters.

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"Mom, we're home!" Max called, as her and El walked into the Mayfield/Hargrove residence. "That's weird," Max said. "Usually she would've greeted us with snacks or something. She's always on top of that when I get home."

"Maybe she's out?" El asked with a shrug.

"Could be," Max walked into the kitchen. "El, there's a note."

El followed Max into the kitchen.

"Max,

*Neil and I decided to go into town for the night so you and El can have the place to yourself.*

*There's some leftovers in the fridge for dinner, but I left some money in case you wanted to order pizza and rent a movie.*

*Have fun!*

*Love, Mom"*

Max picked up the \$20 bill. "Want pizza? Or leftovers?"

"Pizza," El said without hesitation.

Max walked over to the phone, dialing the pizza place.

"Cheese," El mouthed to her.

---

20 minutes later, the girls were sitting on the couch, munching on their pizza while watching *The Karate Kid*.

"Ralph Macchio is so cute," Max said, through a mouthful of pizza, causing El to giggle. "Well, he is!" Max exclaimed, defending herself.

"Ok, ok. What about Lucas?" El asked.

"Ralph Macchio doesn't stalk people to get their attention. He already has it," Max said, indignantly.

El gave Max a questioning look.

"A celebrity has almost everyone's attention. Lucas had to stalk me, just to get me to notice him." Max explained, nonchalantly.

"Oh, Mike just found me." El said, causing Max to roll her eyes.

"Let's just watch the movie." Max said, turning her eyes back to the screen.

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After the movie, the girls got ready for bed.

El stepped into the bathroom, clutching Mike's old shirt to her chest.

She pulled off her normal t-shirt, replacing it with the stolen shirt. She brushed her teeth, and fixed her hair, before stepping back out.

Max rolled her eyes when she realized that El had taken one of Mike's shirts. Instead of causing drama over it, Max grabbed her Wonder Woman comics and climbed in bed.

El followed her, climbing under the covers, taking one of the comics from Max.

They read in silence for a few minutes, before El remembered what she had heard the boys saying.

"Max, what's...sex?" El asked, innocently.

"What!" Max threw down her comic, her eyes going as wide as saucers. "Where the fuck did you hear that?"

"I overheard the boys talking about it in the basement." El said. "Is it...bad?"

"Shit. No it's not bad. It's just... something for grownups."

El looked at her confused. Max sighed, realizing she'd have to tell.

"Basically it's how babies are made. Guys and girls have different parts. A guy has a penis, and a girl has a vagina. If a guy and girl are in love, a guy would place his penis inside a girl's vagina, that's sex." Max explained, hoping it would be enough.

"Then what?" El looked at her, curiously.

"There's a chance that the girl gets pregnant. If so, they'll have a baby in 9 months. And all the responsibilities of a baby."

"But what if the girl doesn't get preg..." El stuttered.

"Pregnant? Well, then they had sex for fun." Max said, calmly.

"For fun?" El asked.

"Well, some people have sex just for fun. They run the risk of her getting pregnant, but they use protection."

"Protection?" El raised her eyebrows.

"Yeah. A girl can either take birth control pills everyday, or get an IUD which lower the chances of getting pregnant. Or the guy can wear a condom on his penis. Nothing is completely effective, and there's still a chance though."

"Does it hurt?"

"I don't know." Max said, slightly disgusted.

"You've never had sex with Lucas?" El asked.

"No. I'm sure it probably hurts a little bit though."

"But why would people do it?"

"Remember those happy screams I was telling you about?" Max asked, trying to get on El's level. It was clear no one had ever had the 'talk' with El.

"Those are from sex?" El questioned, beginning to understand.

"Yeah." Max breathed. "It's weird."

"Do you want to have sex with Lucas?"

"No!" Max answered, hastily. "Well, not right now. We're so young. If I were to get pregnant, we'd be so fucked up."

"Should I have sex with Mike?"

"No... I mean, you can, but don't. It's not a good idea." Max cried.

"Why not?" El gave Max a questioning look. "We're in love."

"Yes, but usually, the guy and girl are at a stage in their relationship where they're thinking of having a family." Max explained. "You and Mike are only fourteen. No where near wanting a family. If you guys had sex, and you got pregnant, you'd be so SCREWED!"

"Oh..." El breathed.

"Look. If you really want this, talk to Joyce about it. She would have better advice. But first, and foremost, talk to Mike about that step in your relationship." Max tried to get on a sisterly advice level. "I'll lend you my mom's Cosmo when you think you're ready to take that step."

"Thanks Max." El said.

"For what?"

"Whenever I tried to talk to Hopper about my body, he sent me to Joyce like it was something bad. Joyce only explained what I needed to know."

"Oh, well. In that case, you're welcome." Max smiled.



El smiled back, snuggling into the covers. She closed her eyes and fell asleep.

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**So... that was that. I've always thought that Max would be the one to explain this to El. Hopper obviously wouldn't, and he definitely wouldn't want her to even know.**

**Hopefully you liked this chapter. If the M rating scares you away, I'm sorry.**

**Please leave a review if you'd like.**

**- Star**